AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

At page 21, line 1, please amend the current heading as follows:

~~Summary~~ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure to read as indicated herein.

~~The invention relates in particular to a process for the determination of the PMD-induced outage probability of an optical transmission system.~~

~~For this purpose the~~The present invention proposes a ~~process~~method whereby during a specified/specifiable observation period (T_{total}), the polarization states of ~~the~~an optical transmission system and/or the optical signals transmitted by the optical transmission system are changed by applying a targeted intervention in at least one position of the transmission line ~~(10, 11, 12, 13a, 13b, 14, 15, 20)~~, and at a second position which is interposed at least one place downstream from the first position of the optical transmission line ~~(10, 11, 12, 13a, 13b, 14, 15, 20)~~, a specified/specifiable signal characteristic (BER) is qualitatively measured and checked for ~~it~~ adherence to a specified/specifiable threshold condition (BER_{th}) and the PMD-induced outage probability of the optical transmission system is calculated on the basis of the ratio between the length of that share of the time (T_{out}), during which the measured signal characteristic fails to meet the threshold condition (BER_{th}), to the length of the observation period (T_{total}).